

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 CEA-02 STR-08 SAJ-01 NIC-01 AID-20

EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 FPC-01 FEA-02 DRC-01 /201 W

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R 221749Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5884

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, BEXP, AR, UY, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET BID ON SALTO GRANDE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

REF : MONTEVIDEO 173

1. AUSTRIAN CONSUL GENERAL FRITZ KALMAR HAS VISITED THIS EM-BASSY TWICE IN RECENT DAYS TO DISCUSS BIDS FOR THE SALTO GRANDE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. ONE OF THE BIDS PRESENTED TO THE URU-GUAYAN-ARGENTINE MIXED TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR SUPPLYING THE TURBOGENERATORS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN MADE BY A CON-SORTIUM COMPOSED OF WESTINGHOUSE (OF THE U.S.) PLUS AUSTRIAN AND FRENCH INTERESTS. KALMAR KNOWS ANOTHER BID FOR THIS EQUIP-MENT HAS BEEN PRESENTED BY ANOTHER U.S. FIRM ALONE (ALLIS CHAL-MERS). BUT HE SOLICITS AMERICAN ASSISTANCE IN GETTING THE LOW BID THAT WAS PRESENTED BY THE U.S.S.R. THROWN OUT, THEREBY ENHANCING THE CHANCES OF ALL OTHER BIDS MADE.

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2. BETWEEN HIS TWO VISITS HERE, KALMAR SAYS HE HAS VISITED THE

FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOGETHER WITH THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO URUGUAY, WHO RESIDES IN BUENOS AIRES (BUT IS PAYING A FAREWELL VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO). ACCORDING TO KALMAR, BOTH FRENCH AND AUSTRIAN AMBASSADORS WOULD LIKE TO BLOCK THE SOVIET BID, IF POSSIBLE WITH AMERICAN HELP. THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR, HE SAID, WILL TAKE UP THIS MATTER WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES AFTER HIS RETURN THERE TONIGHT OR TOMORROW.

3. KALMAR ASKED WHETHER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PLANS TO TAKE ANY ACTION IN THIS REGARD. EMBASSY OFFICER ANSWERED THAT, AS KALMAR HAD SAID, THIS IS A RATHER DELICATE MATTER, AND WE HAVE ASKED WASHINGTON FOR GUIDANCE. KALMAR THEN ASKED TO BE INFORMED OF ANY PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS AND PROMISED TO SO INFORM US.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT DOUBT THAT THE AUSTRIAN AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS WOULD BE HAPPY FOR US TO HELP PULL THEIR CHESTNUTS OUT OF THE FIRE. BUT KALMAR'S ZEAL APPEARS MILDLY SURPRISING, UNLESS HE IS UNAWARE THAT BETWEEN THE LOW SOVIET BID AND THE WESTINGHOUSE-AUSTRIAN-FRENCH BID THERE ARE BIDS BY THE YUGOSLAVS AND BY ALLIS-CHALMERS.
HAAHR

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Message Attributes

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